

THE SNOW QUEEN




Saviour Pirotta
Illustrated by Lucy Fleming




anythink





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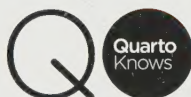
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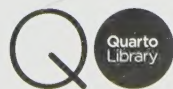
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THE SNOW QUEEN



Written by Saviour Pirotta
Illustrated by Lucy Fleming



Once upon a time, a long, long time ago, an evil snow queen owned a horrible mirror. Everything reflected in it, no matter how beautiful, looked hideous.





But one day, the mirror broke and
it shattered into a million fragments.

✓ The wind scattered the fragments
to all corners of the world.

A tiny sliver of glass fell
into a window box
full of roses.



It lay there, hidden,
until one summer...



“Ouch,” said Kai, who was
watering the roses with his
best friend Gerda. “There’s
something in my eye.”

The glass instantly froze Kai's heart. Everything he saw now looked nasty and horrible.





In a rage, he tore the roses
to shreds. Gerda, who loved all
living things, was heartbroken.

Winter came and Kai was still angry with the world. One day, while he was out riding on his sled, he saw a sleigh.


He was tired, so he decided to hitch his sled to it.



He did not know that it was the Snow Queen's sleigh.
"Sit beside me," she said, smiling a cool smile.
And with that, Kai was under her spell.



The Snow Queen's sleigh swooped up high into the sky,
carrying Kai far from home.




Spring was approaching and
Kai had still not returned home.
Gerda set out to find him.

“He was kidnapped by the
Snow Queen,” chirped Gerda’s
friend, the river bird.

“I shall find a boat and
sail to the Snow Queen’s
palace,” said Gerda.



A whimsical illustration of a summer island. On the left, a large, gnarled tree trunk with green leaves frames the scene. In the center, a young girl with long red hair, wearing a red dress and a brown jacket, holds a small blue bag and looks up at a witch. The witch, with long dark hair and a purple pointed hat adorned with red flowers, wears a purple dress with a white apron and a red cape. She is offering a branch with three red cherries to the girl. The background is a lush green field with various flowers, a small blue dragonfly, and a tall green pine tree on the right. In the bottom right corner, the red hull of a boat is visible. The sky is a pale blue.

Soon Gerda came to a summer
island where a witch lived.

“Why don’t you stay?”
said the witch, offering
Gerda a cherry.



One bite of the ripe fruit, and Gerda forgot all about Kai.

But later, she woke up from the spell and remembered.




She returned to her boat and set off again to find Kai.





Away she sailed, up rivers and far across seas, getting colder and colder until the boat got stuck in the ice.



“How shall I get to the
Snow Queen’s palace
now?” exclaimed
Gerda loudly.

“You can borrow
Bae, my reindeer,”
said a girl who was
fishing nearby.

Bae carried Gerda to the Snow Queen's palace. The Snow Queen was away but she had left Kai behind.

"I've come to take you home," cried Gerda.






Kai looked puzzled.
He did not recognize Gerda.

Saddened, Gerda kissed him and her tears warmed Kai's heart. The sliver of mirror fell from his eye.



“Gerda? Is it you?” Kai exclaimed. “Where are we?”
Gerda’s tears turned to joy at Kai’s words.



"We are in great
danger," she said.

"Let's go home before the
Snow Queen returns."

Spring had arrived by the time the
reindeer brought Kai and Gerda home.





New roses bloomed in the window box. Kai thought they were the most precious things in the world.

Next Steps

Look at the front cover with the children. What kind of story do they think it will be? Are there any clues in the picture?

The Snow Queen is the villain in the story. How do we know she is the villain? Can the children name other villains from famous stories?

The Snow Queen is a classic winter story. What things in the story and pictures tell us it is winter? Can the children name any other stories set in winter?

Kai and Gerda like watering the roses together. Ask the children if they like flowers. What other kinds of flowers can they name?

Gerda is very kind to Kai. Ask the children what kind things they do for other people. Why is kindness important?

When Kai's heart is frozen, he becomes angry and sad. Ask the children if they ever feel really sad or angry like Kai? What makes them feel better?

Gerda goes on a long journey to save Kai. Ask the children how they think Gerda was feeling? Would she have been scared, happy, or excited?

Gerda and Kai are best friends. Ask the children if they have a best friend. Would they travel as far as Gerda did to save their best friend from the Snow Queen?

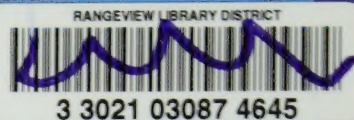






In this classic tale of true friendship,
Gerda sets out on a long journey to rescue
her best friend, Kai, who has been spellbound
and kidnapped by the evil Snow Queen.

Will Gerda save Kai before it's too late?



ONCE UPON
A TIME...



Beautifully illustrated, *Once Upon a Time...*
introduces young children to the pleasures of
reading and sharing stories. Next Steps
provide guidance for parents and teachers.

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